

Winter 1-31-2014

The Daily Gamecock, Friday, January 31, 2014

University of South Carolina, Office of Student Media

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SG officers propose new constitution

Changes to current system introduced at special session

Hannah Jeffrey
NEWS@DAILYGAMECOCK.COM

Student Government officers have proposed a new constitution that, if passed through student senate next week, will appear as a referendum on the ballot in next month's election.

The constitution proposes several major changes to the existing system. Among them: putting the office of the treasurer under the authority of the student body president, creating a new executive office — speaker of the senate — and solidifying a line of succession for executive officers.

Under the proposed constitution, the student

body president would no longer be directly responsible for programs and agencies, such as Walk Home Cocky or Gamecock Pantry.

Instead, those responsibilities would fall under the office of the vice president. The job of presiding over student senate would move from the vice president to the speaker of the senate.

Treasurer would no longer be an elected office; instead, a student appointed by the president would fill the role, and the officer would continue to receive a stipend.

This student would serve as a financial advisor to the president and would ideally be “very financially minded” and “passionate about finance,” said Senate Pro Tempore Lindsay Richardson.

“I know change can be a little bit scary, but

CONSTITUTION • 4

PROPOSED CONSTITUTION: THE BASICS

- Students would no longer elect a treasurer. Instead, that role would be appointed by the president.
- Students would elect candidates to the offices of president, vice president and speaker of the senate.
- The student body president would no longer be responsible for programs and agencies. The vice president would take on this responsibility, and the speaker of the senate would preside over the student senate.
- A line of succession for the executive officers would be established.

Forum discusses ties between science, religion

Oxford professor attempts to define role of religion

Hannah Richardson
NEWS@DAILYGAMECOCK.COM

Can religion and science coexist peacefully? According to John Lennox, the question is more complex than you might think.

At an event hosted by the Cambridge, Mass.-based non-profit Veritas Forum on Thursday, Lennox, a professor of mathematics at Oxford University, lectured on the relationship between science and religion to a full house in the Swearingen Engineering Center. In addition to being a fellow in mathematics and the philosophy of science, Lennox is also a pastoral advisor at Green Templeton College at Oxford.

Stressing that science is not the only way to truth, Lennox gave historical background on the subject and mentioned important people involved in the debate.

“It’s not science versus God or versus atheism,” Lennox said. “It’s that there are two world views, and there are scientists holding onto each of them.”

The two main theories he discussed were the theory of theism, which is the belief that at least one deity exists, and atheism, which rejects the belief in deities.

“I’m not remotely ashamed of being a scientist and a Christian, because Christianity gave me my subject,” Lennox said.

Lennox also spoke about the connections between scientists, philosophers and historians and how different their views and opinions on the topic can be.

Detailing the “God of the gaps” from ancient Greek times, Lennox said many gods then were created to explain what people couldn’t. For example, he said, there used to be a Greek god of thunder and lightning, but science has now shown where thunder and lightning come from and how they are created.

“The idea is that the more science you do, the more gaps are filled, so in the end, there is no room for God at all,” Lennox said. “If you believe in the ‘God of gaps,’ then you have to choose between God and science, because that’s the way you define God.”

In addition, Lennox spoke about reduction and how many modern-day philosophers reduce everything to science and math. He argued that ultimately everything can be explained without the reduction of physics and chemistry and that written symbols and words can not be explained using science; instead, they were created by the mind.

DC

Women’s basketball defends undefeated record at home

SEE PAGE 10



Twitter photo courtesy of Harris Pastides

Pastides welcomes new addition

The Pastides family welcomed a new Gamecock into the world Jan. 16 in Santa Monica, Calif., as USC President Harris Pastides’ daughter Katharine had her second daughter, Alice Anastasia Erickson.

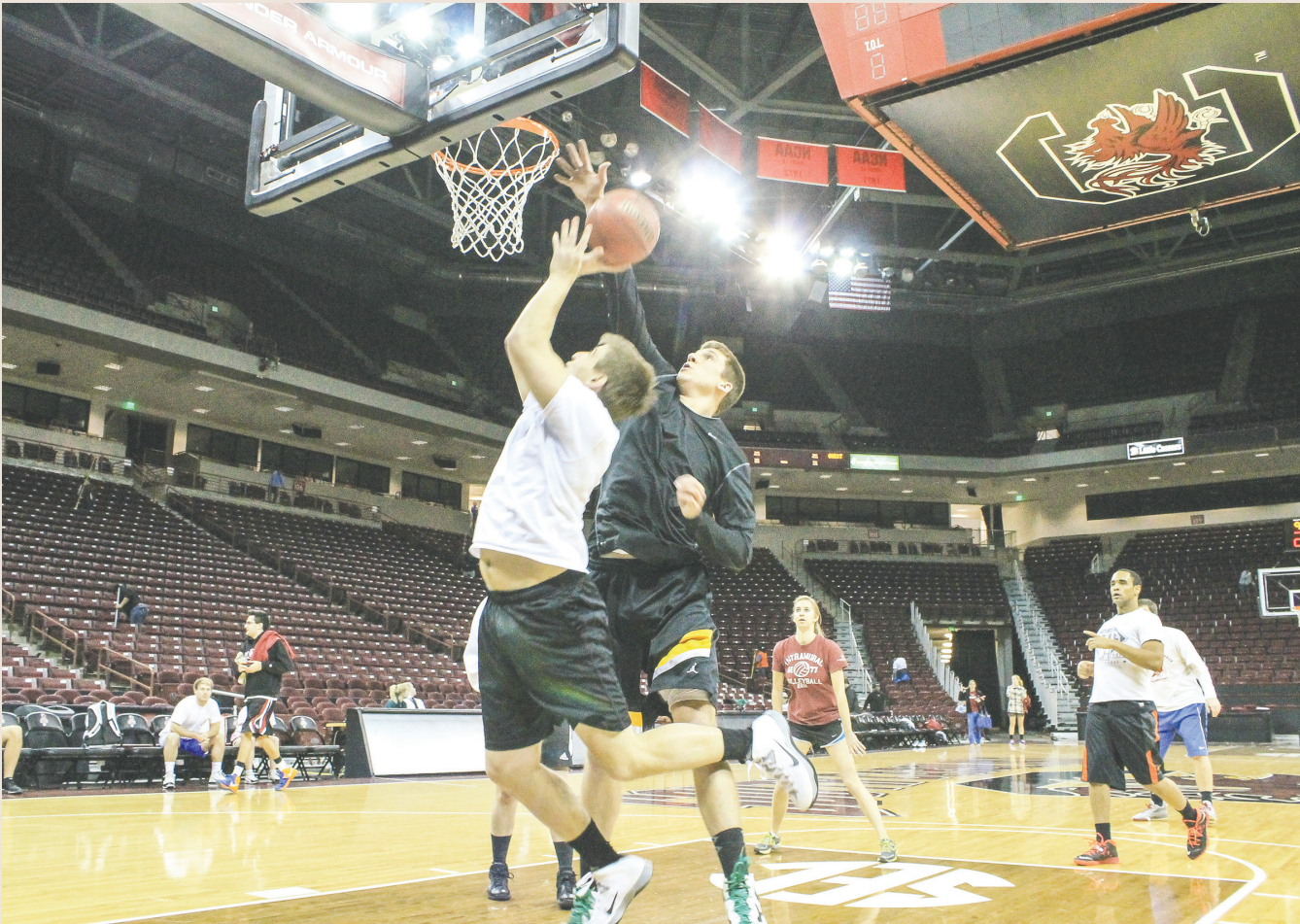
“While I feel ‘parental’ about all 31,000 of our students, there is something exceptional and thrilling about seeing and holding your very own tiny granddaughter,” Pastides said in an email.

Pastides was not able to make it to the hospital for his granddaughter’s birth because of an NCAA meeting, but he arrived a few days later, which he said “was worth the wait.”

Pastides posted a photo on Twitter of himself holding Alice, who is wearing a Gamecock outfit. Pastides said it was size “tiny.”

“She appeared to be ready to move to Sandstorm, or she needed a diaper change,” he said. “Either way, I adore her and her ‘big sister.’”

—Compiled by Hannah Jeffrey, News Editor



Jeremy Marshall Harkness / THE DAILY GAMECOCK

3-on-3 basketball tournament returns

After a five-year hiatus, the second 3-on-3 basketball tournament, hosted by USC Intramural Sports and the women’s basketball team, kicked off at the Colonial Life Arena.

The next three single-elimination games will also be played following women’s basketball games, and the championship game will take place at halftime during the Georgia game on Feb. 27.

Lauren Martini Olson, director of intramural sports, said the tournament’s 16 teams formed quickly, and the

tournament was easy to fill.

Olson said the tournament was proving to be a great way to get students involved in intramural sports, especially female athletes, as each team is required to have at least one female player.

This year’s tournament is the second since Dawn Staley took over as head coach for the Gamecocks in 2008.

—Compiled by Hannah Jeffrey, News Editor

IN BRIEF

Knockoff Super Bowl merchandise seized

A crackdown on Super Bowl counterfeiters by federal agents, including some from Charleston, has led to dozens of arrests and the seizure of more than \$21.6 million in knockoff merchandise, The Associated Press reported.

Authorities announced the seizures and arrests at a news conference and displayed the counterfeit goods, including Broncos and Seahawks hats and Super Bowl T-shirts. The knockoffs were made to look like official NFL gear and have Adidas labeling.

The operation, which lasted for eight months, resulted in the seizure of more than 202,000 Super Bowl-related items that would be worth more than \$21.6 million if they were legitimate. Authorities say most of the merchandise was manufactured in China and then smuggled into the United States overnight.

New York authorities also announced the arrest of two men on charges that they sold high-quality counterfeit Super Bowl tickets online.

—*Sarah Martin, Assistant News Editor*

Haley rescinds emergency order after snowstorm

Gov. Nikki Haley rescinded her executive order declaring a state of emergency after a winter storm affected much of South Carolina, the state Emergency Management Division said in a release.

Haley voided the order at noon Thursday as state operations scaled back. The state National Guard and state and county emergency offices have also gone back to normal operations.

The division also said that the state Department of Transportation had more than 2,000 employees working during the storm, spreading thousands of tons of salt and sand on state roads.

The S.C. Department of Public Safety reported that officers answered over 3,500 calls for service throughout the storm, including nearly 2,000 collisions and 368 abandoned vehicles.

—*Sarah Martin, Assistant News Editor*

Homeless shelters reach capacity during storm

Local homeless shelters exceeded capacity as temperatures plunged below freezing this week, The State reported.

Columbia warming centers opened on Tuesday at Martin Luther King Park and Hyatt Park and could potentially stay open if the winter weather persists.

The Transitions homeless shelter on Main Street already reached full capacity, with 255 beds taken and some homeless staying in daytime-only areas. Those who could not be accommodated were sent to Oliver Gospel Mission, which provides sleeping space for 130 men.

The mission's executive director told the newspaper that the shelter's food stores are in good shape despite the added meals, thanks to help from the public, who provided food, water and other supplies.

—*Sarah Martin, Assistant News Editor*

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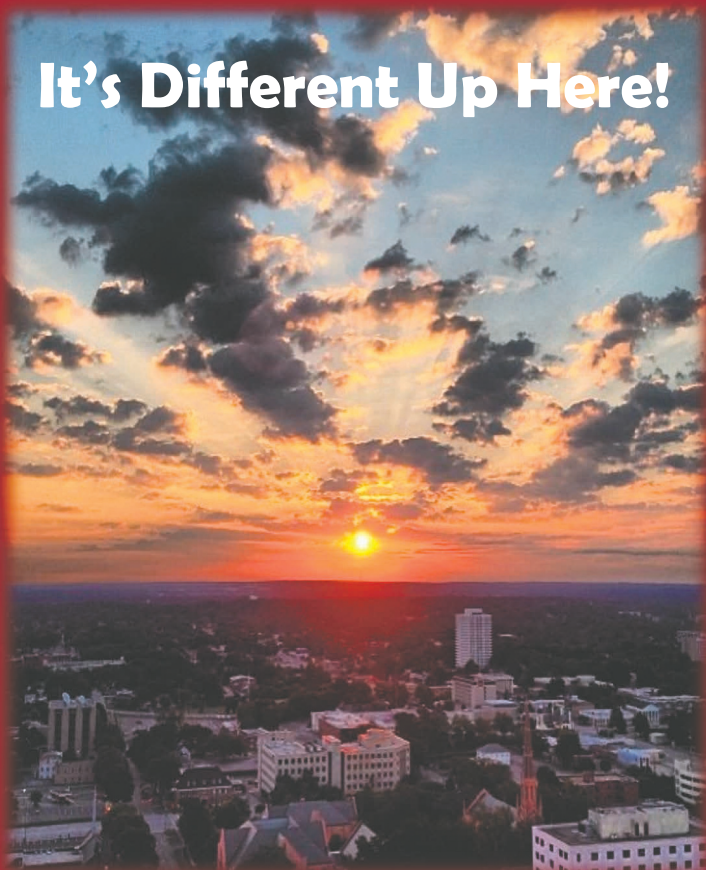
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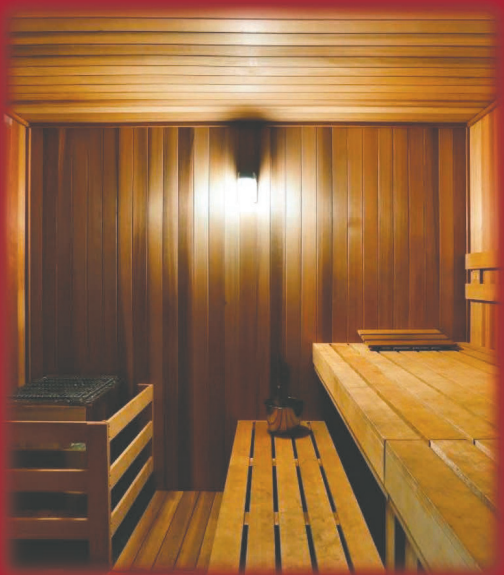
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Amanda Geiger bought these sunglasses to wear on spring break. She wore them only once before she was killed by a drunk driver.

Friends Don't Let Friends Drive Drunk.



Photo by Michael Mazzeo

Ad Council **U.S. Department of Transportation**

CONSTITUTION • Continued from 1

change can be a very good thing,” Richardson said while presenting the bill to senate Thursday night.

Kirkland Gray, chair of the Safety and Transportation Committee, penned an amendment to the new constitution during the session, proposing that the treasurer be a nominee selected collectively by the president, vice president and speaker of the senate, and then confirmed by the senate.

“I like that we’re getting away from the popularity contest,” he said, “but at the same time, they shouldn’t be appointed by the one person.”

Gray’s amendment was carried over to next week’s session, where it will be further discussed and debated.

Officers hope the new system would allow for candidates to run on concrete platforms that align with the duties of the office; president would run mainly on initiatives, vice president would run on program improvement and expansion and speaker of the senate would run on policy changes.

The Student Government constitution was last updated in 2010. According to a presentation given to senate Thursday night, sponsors of the new constitution would like to change this version to correct several wording errors, do away with mentions of positions that do not exist and better represent the current operating structure of the organization.

In order for the referendum to appear on the ballot in two weeks, it must be passed by a two-thirds vote of senators present at the next senate session on Wednesday.

The bill, which calls for the referendum, was distributed to senators Thursday night in a special session of the student senate. Next week, committees will discuss and debate the legislation and will vote favorably, unfavorably or favorably with amendment.

If passed, the text of the referendum must be sent to The Daily Gamecock to be printed at least one week prior to the start of the election, which falls on Feb. 11.

Former student body treasurer Coy Gibson raised concerns about the timeline of the legislation, saying he thought the process was “happening entirely too fast.”

“How many of you saw a copy of these codes before yesterday?” he asked the senate chamber, which was less than half filled. Four or five hands raised in response.

Gibson heatedly argued that the president already has a financial advisor in the treasurer as a separate office, and ultimately said he wished more time had been spent discussing the legislation.

“Sorry to get worked up, but, I mean, this is a big deal, guys,” he said. “Please, let’s consider what we’re doing here, and let’s consider the students we represent.”

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Sea Wolf Mutiny find themselves

Local indie rock band pushing past difficult year, seeks new sound

Rachael McGahee
MIX@DAILYGAMECOCK.COM

The Sea Wolf Mutiny is far from your average five-piece indie rock band. The Columbia group has gone through its ups and down within the last year.

Whether it was finding a place for the band to practice or juggling careers, families and attending classes, the members of The Sea Wolf Mutiny have faced a number of obstacles in following their dream.

“Last year was a tough one,” said lead singer and pianist Bobby Hatfield. “We have been through a lot and processed a lot, matured more I think as people, and that is already starting to transfer into our new record.”

The indie folk band found its sound through a transition of different instruments and musicians. Former Calculator drummer Michael Crawford joined guitarist Danny Oakes, bassist Dave Ohlman and Hatfield to create an experimental sound. Another addition to The Sea Wolf Mutiny is rhythm guitarist Phil Windsor.

“We didn’t have a rhythm guitarist for so long,” Hatfield said. “So adding a second rhythm element allowed us to split the difference and spread the wealth.”

In addition to adding more shows to their calendars, Hatfield said the folk rock band is in the process of creating a new record.

“Nothing is concrete yet, but a lot of things are brewing,” he said. “We are in talks with trying to get a support system (and) booking throughout the region, so we can get some room carved out in front of the record.”

Since the release of their debut album, “The Last Season,” the members of The Sea Wolf Mutiny say they have been rediscovering themselves through the writing process by taking ideas and expanding them.



Courtesy of The Sea Wolf Mutiny

The Sea Wolf Mutiny, an indie rock group fighting past tumultuous circumstances, is searching for new sounds.

“The song approach is something we have been learning together this year,” Hatfield said. “I begin with an idea that is clear to me lyrically that I can grab hold of or a question that is bugging me like an itch.”

The list of artists that have influenced the rich sound the band produces is diverse as it is fitting. Carole King, U2 and even the Charleston-based Bands of Horses are among the artists that account for the complex and captivating sound of The Sea Wolf Mutiny.

“We discovered that we really wanted to make music because we couldn’t make sense, initially,

of all our influences and the sound we wanted,” said Hatfield. “We just knew we had a tone we felt mattered. ... We are compelled more by ideas than anything else.”

Hatfield said he and the other members of The Sea Wolf Mutiny are excited about the year to come and the new opportunities it may bring. They plan to release a new album and host a number of shows in 2014.

“Hopefully we will change expectations,” Hatfield said. “So here is to a new year, a year of no excuses.”

DG

‘Parks’ sends off Ann, Chris



Courtesy of NBC

Leslie Knope (Amy Poehler) says a reluctant, tearful goodbye to her longtime best friend, Ann Perkins (Rashida Jones).

NBC sitcom in midst of graceful decline, drops supporting characters

Belvin Olasov
MIX@DAILYGAMECOCK.COM

NBC’s “Parks and Recreation” has always worn its heart on its sleeve, combining sharp humor and world-building with a huge amount of affection for its characters.

Considering the show’s unabashed sentiment, it’s no surprise that the departure of Rob Lowe’s Chris Traeger and Rashida Jones’s Ann Perkins from the show would come as a tearful goodbye in “Ann and Chris.”

“Parks and Recreation” was one of the best shows on television during seasons two through four, but since season five, the show has been on a slow, graceful decline.

“Parks” is basically in the perfect position to coast; over the course of its run, it’s established Pawnee as the most robust comic setting since Springfield in “The Simpsons,” and it has developed its characters to near-perfection.

Even with gradually softer comedic writing, the show still has one of the best casts on television, and it knows

how to use it, as exemplified by the character moments of “Ann and Chris.”

As befitting the unbridled can-do spirit of Amy Poehler’s Leslie Knope, the episode is mainly centered on Ann’s epic going-away party, with festivities for every holiday — Leslie doesn’t know when she’ll see Ann next and wants to knock out each holiday, leading to Thanksgiving turkey, Easter ham and an unnecessarily detailed President’s Day section.

As impressive as the party is, Leslie’s real surprise is the opening of the Pawnee Commons, the park that she promised Ann she would build five years ago and that marked the beginning of their friendship. The opening is blocked by bureaucratic maneuvering, and there’s a cursory plotline where Leslie and Ann team up one last time to get something done, but the real meat of the episode are the individual goodbyes.

Ann has mostly been defined by her relationship with Leslie; the two make up one of the best friendships on television, and whenever they’ve fought, it has always been when the show is at its sharpest.

However, “Ann and Chris” proves that Ann was important to other characters, too. Ann was a fellow serial dater with Donna, a girlfriend to Tom

and Andy, a helpful presence in Ron Swanson’s life and an adversary to April.

It’s April that gets one of the episode’s most touching moments, as she lets her guard down for just long enough to mumble “I love you.” It’s fantastically sweet and genuinely surprising, proving that even six seasons down the line, “Parks” still has the power to surprise.

Chris has perhaps been similarly sidelined over the show’s run, but he’s still a delightful presence on the show thanks to Rob Lowe’s unmitigated enthusiasm in the role. He, too, gets a goodbye scene with almost every character: his libertarian rival Ron, his enthusiastic friend Andy and his best friend and complement Ben Wyatt.

Chris has grown into a part of the show’s beaming, optimistic heart, and it’s a blow to see him leave.

The net effect is sweet and melancholy, and a terrifically character-based half hour. The plot may have been unambitious, but really, it wasn’t the point.

Ann and Chris were important not just to the show but to the characters populating it, and “Ann and Chris” was literally one of the most well-rounded goodbyes we could have asked for.

DG

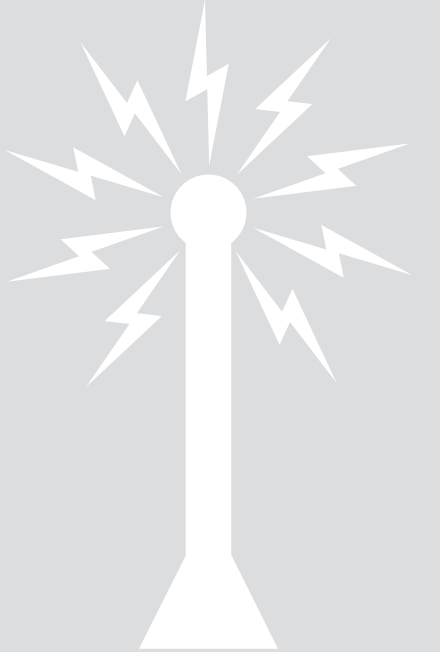
WUSC seeks nominations for Woodie

The mtvU Woodie Awards are taking nominations for the country’s best college radio station, and WUSC-FM hopes students will vote for them again this year after a top-25 finish in 2013.

Station Manager Kate Appelbaum said that last year, the station received a spot on the Woodie Awards’ list, but it didn’t get enough votes to crack the top 10. This year, she said, it hopes to do so.

The nomination form closes today at 4 p.m., and users can cast multiple votes.

Nominations are taken on the Rate My Professors website, at <http://blog.ratemyprofessors.com/nominate-your-choice-for-the-mtvu-college-radio-woodie/>.



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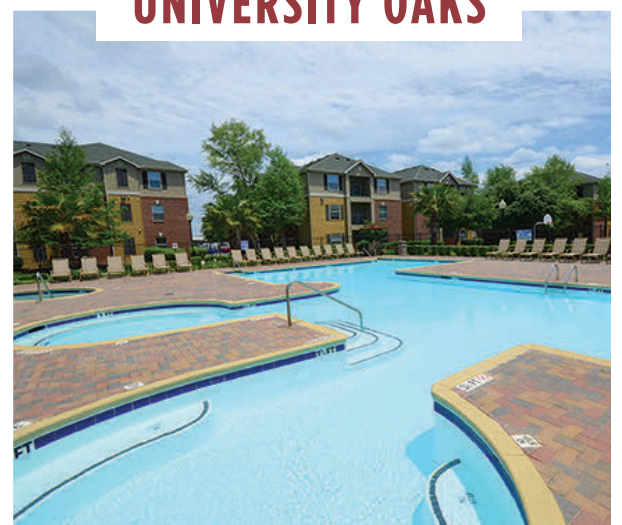
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HOROSCOPES

Aries

For about four weeks, your dreams seem prophetic, with Mercury in Pisces. Love comes easier with Venus direct today. Don't get greedy. Do without something that could serve another better than you. Share with friends.

Leo

You're very attractive now. For about four weeks, your work gets more fun and profitable. Ask for what you think the work is worth. Organize finances. Reward your discipline with a delicious flavor or experience. Invite a partner.

Sagittarius

You may crave travel, but resist temptation to spend your savings. Luckily, for the next month, you'll do your best thinking at home. Accept support from a partner more easily now that Venus is direct.

Capricorn

Things go better than expected, especially regarding business and finances. For the next four weeks, you're even smarter than normal. Consult an expert in the areas where you have less experience. A female adds an artistic flourish.

Gemini

Follow the rules, even if it seems harder. There may be short-term financial shortage. But this next month, with Mercury in Pisces, new career opportunities and investments arise. Relax, and let it all out. You'll be fabulous.

Virgo

Listen to the competition carefully for the next four weeks, and learn useful strategies to improve your own performance and service. Emphasize those qualities you have which others admire. Visualize success. Love and money come easier now.

Aquarius

Your desires realize with greater ease, with Venus direct. Obstacles seem like nothing to you with the Moon in your sign. You're hot today and tomorrow. For about four weeks, it's easier to finish old business. Celebrate a windfall.

Libra

Face something you've been avoiding, and discover freedom. New opportunities are opening up. No need to broadcast your strategy. Build the fun factor at home and work. Fix up your space to reflect this.

Pisces

Work moves forward harmoniously now. For the next four weeks, with Mercury in your sign, you're even smarter than usual, and team projects go well. Capture your love in artistic expression. Share it.

Cancer

For about four weeks, your interests turn to philosophy, metaphysics or spirituality. Dissolve limits. It's getting easier to make money and to compromise with Venus direct. There's an art to growing prosperity. Plan the garden.

Scorpio

It's getting easier to earn and save. For the next four weeks, with Mercury in Pisces, you're exceptionally persuasive. Capture your thoughts onto paper. There's love all around at home. Soak it up.

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7			9		3			
9			2					4
	6						1	
4					6			8
					9			3
		5				1		
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How to Play
Complete the grid so each row, column AND 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit 1 to 9.

For solutions to today's puzzle, go to dailygamecock.com or download our app!

Crossword Edited by Wayne Robert Williams 1/31/14

ACROSS

1 English or French instrument
5 Phi Beta ____
10 Unit in a plan
14 Cookie since 1912
15 Just picked from the tree
16 Schoolbook
17 Service available at hotspots
19 "Phooey!"
20 Goes bad, as milk
21 Sax register
22 Pub order
23 PC key on either side of the space bar
24 Josh
26 "Laughing" critter
28 Does and bucks
30 Performer's song assortment
34 Some ER cases
35 Historical period
37 Aches and pains
39 Place to see droids or tribbles
43 Jet-setter's document
44 Gen. Lee's side
45 Oils and such
46 Optimistic
48 Hitchhiker's ride
52 "The Sound of Music" family name
54 Chi follower
56 Morse T
57 "___ pig's eye!"
58 Trade
61 "Time in a Bottle" singer Jim
63 44-Across soldiers
64 Home theater component
66 Very dry, as Champagne
67 Daytime talk star
68 Yea or nay
69 ___ of Man
70 China's unofficial national flower
71 Blog entry

DOWN

1 "What a pity!"
2 Baltimore baseballer
3 Disprove
4 Pinot ___: red wine
5 Col. Sanders's company
6 Gaming area
7 Spa treatment
8 Sibillant "Over here!"
9 Facetious "I get it now"
10 Alley cat, e.g.
11 "Tower Heist" actress
12 Reach as far as, as property vis-à-vis its boundary
13 NBA stats
18 "If you don't know, ___"
25 Original "Dragnet" words after "My name is Friday"
26 Mass songs
27 Part of PGA: Abbr.
29 Whistle blowers
31 "Inferno" author
32 Actress Tyler
33 Puts in office
36 Tear to pieces
38 List-ending abbr.
39 Lovers' quarrel
40 Transportation companies
41 Turkey's largest city
42 Globe
47 Rome's Way

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49 "Ditto"
50 Diamond surfaces
51 Lincoln Center opera setting, familiarly
53 Partner of cut, in editing
55 Emotionally distant
58 Barber's workplace
59 Sponge (off)
60 Fluffed-up hairdo
62 Answer an invite
63 Batter's stat
65 Like a wallflower

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Women rout Rebels, prepare for Missouri

Gamecocks match season-high score with 99 points

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Wherever she goes, success seems to follow South Carolina head coach Dawn Staley closely.

As the head coach at Temple from 2000 to 2008, Staley brought the program to prominence, building it from the bottom. During her eight-year tenure with the Owls, she led them to 172 overall wins. Temple had 62 total wins over 220 games in the eight years before Staley's takeover.

In the middle of her sixth year with the Gamecocks, Staley is making history again.

The former WNBA All-Star has No. 7 South Carolina out to a 19-2 overall record — the best start in school history. The Gamecocks are 7-1 in the Southeastern Conference and have seen the Colonial Life Arena transform into the women's basketball equivalent of Williams-Brice Stadium.

So far this season, South Carolina is undefeated at home, and it boasts a 14-game winning streak that dates back to last season.

The latest home victory came in a 99-70 thrashing of Ole Miss, who currently sits in the cellar of the SEC standings.

Six different Gamecocks finished Thursday's victory with double-digit points, including freshman Alaina Coates, who matched her career high of 24 points. Coates also registered her seventh double-double of the season, as she also recorded 12 rebounds.

South Carolina fell just short of scoring triple-digit points, which would have been the first time since South Carolina beat North



Jeffrey Davis / THE DAILY GAMECOCK

Coach Dawn Staley has led South Carolina to an NCAA Tournament appearance the past two years.

Carolina A&T in 2008, 102-74.

"I mean, we had a couple of cracks at it," Staley said of the possibility of scoring 100 points. "If we didn't get it then, no need to do that to an

opponent that's down by 20 or 30 points. For us, it was the unpopular, right thing to do."

After successfully defending their home against the Rebels, South Carolina looks to continue its home

dominance against Missouri (14-7, 3-5 SEC) on Sunday at 3 p.m.

"Our focus is Missouri," Staley said. "Obviously Missouri poses another challenge in their style of

play. You know, they beat us last year — they beat us pretty bad. It'll be a good game to have at home to avenge that loss."

Just like Ole Miss, Missouri is struggling to find success in the heat of its conference schedule. The Tigers, however, won their most recent contest, bringing their four-game skid to a screeching halt against No. 16 Vanderbilt. South Carolina capped off their sweep of Vanderbilt this season last weekend with a 61-57 win.

Missouri features only two starters from its 65-58 win over South Carolina last year in Columbia, Mo., and it has since beefed up its roster, including transfers from Kansas and Louisville.

Senior forward Bri Kulas leads the Tigers in points, with 376, and is second on the team in total rebounds, with 137. Kulas dropped 26 points on the Gamecocks last year at Missouri on her way to a double-double.

The Tigers' proficiency from beyond the arc gives them a valuable weapon in their offensive arsenal. They rank second in the nation in three-point field goals per game with an average of 9.8, or 195 total this season.

Something will have to give Sunday night, as the Gamecocks have only allowed opponents to shoot 25.5 percent (60-235) from three-point range this season. Missouri only knocked down three of seven three-pointers in last season's contest.

This season, much of South Carolina's offensive success has come from the inside, which is no secret to Coates. She called Ibiam her "twin tower."

"I don't want to say we're unstoppable," Coates said, "but having us two (Coates and Ibiam) in the paint at the same time — it's hard to stop us. We're just going to keep doing what we do."

DG

Undefeated tennis team heads to Virginia

UVA, VCU rank among nation's top 40 teams

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Riding a two-game winning streak, the South Carolina women's tennis team is looking to keep momentum on their side as they face their toughest test of the season.

The Gamecocks will travel to Charlottesville, Va., this weekend to play the University of Virginia and Virginia Commonwealth University; both teams are ranked in the top 40 nationally.

"UVA this year is ranked 14 right now, but they are probably, in actuality, one of the top four teams in the country," coach Kevin Epley said. "We're really going to see how we stack up against the best and how much further we need to go."

Epley said that the Gamecocks' match with VCU last year went down to the last match before South Carolina won 4-3.

The No. 33 Gamecocks beat both East Tennessee State and College of Charleston last weekend, but know this weekend will be a challenging test. The team was scheduled to host Furman on Tuesday, but canceled the match due to the weather.

"It's easier (competing)

because you know how responsible you are and (that) they're not going to give you anything, so you're going to have to work harder," senior Katerina Popova said. "There won't be any free points, so you have to stay focused the whole time."

To Epley, the team has strengths that could end up carrying them through the opposition.

"Our depth is our biggest strength," he said. "We have some players that have some experience at the three, four, five, six level that can really create some damage. While we may not have that number-one player that is ranked top-10 in the country, we do have a lot of very solid players, and that goes all the way down our lineup."

Five upperclassmen are returning to the team, including two seniors. On the other hand, the team has five underclassmen who haven't experienced the "war-like mentality" of the SEC, Epley said.

The older players are looking to help the younger players get ready for this weekend and the rest of the season and their careers.

"You have to share your experiences with underclassmen. If you know something, just share it. If you see that they are struggling with something and you know why, just say it," Popova said. "It's not just the season; it'll be the rest of



Olivia Barthel / THE DAILY GAMECOCK

Katerina Popova says the team will have to match UVA and VCU's mental toughness to succeed.

their college career."

The team's mental strength will be a big factor for their play this weekend, and Popova expects that it will be a deciding component.

"Everybody has to fight. If everyone is competing, ... it shows a strong mentality, (and) it can mentally affect the opponent," she said. "It's an interesting battle to see who can be mentally

stronger."

As South Carolina gets ready for its biggest challenge of the season so far, the team says it realizes that it will be a proving ground and a way to gauge what the team is moving toward this season.

"They're going to have to stay in the point, and they are going to have to break through walls. When they get uncomfortable or they don't feel like they're

hitting well, (they need) to be emotionally and mentally focused in such a way that they can still access their games and still fight and dig," Epley said. "If we're competing one through six, and everyone is laying it out on the line, and working and leaving it out on the court, we'll be moving in the right direction."

DG